

PHIL 1020: Introduction to Modern Philosophy (1600-1800)

Spring 2011

section 001: MWF 1:00-1:50, DUAN G2B60
section 002: MWF 10:00-10:50, DUAN G2B47

Syllabus

Instructor

Chad Vance
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Office Hours: MWF 11:00am-12:45pm
Buchanan's Coffee (on the hill)

What Is This Class About?

This is a course on philosophical thought in the 17th and 18th centuries, designed to give you a basic understanding of the sorts of things that philosophers were thinking about during that period. At the same time, the course should give you some of the tools that you will need in order to think critically, be rational, better argue for what you believe, and investigate some of the basic philosophical questions. The course is divided into three sections:

First Unit: Skepticism. The modern era was a period of doubt. Philosophers began to question everything—even the most basic principles that had until then been accepted without question. They doubted whether we could know that the sun would rise tomorrow, whether grass was really green, and even whether there was any physical world at all. We'll begin this course by examining the skeptical project of this period in detail.

Second Unit: Metaphysics. In this unit, we will examine what these philosophers thought about personal identity (what makes you the same person as the person who went by your name yesterday?), and the existence of free will and immaterial souls.

Third Unit: God. Though the philosophers during this era were skeptical about almost everything, few of them doubted the existence of God. In the final unit for the course, we will study some of the reasons these philosophers gave for why we should believe in God, as well as some of the criticisms of these reasons.

Required Texts

Readings in Modern Philosophy, Vol. 1 & 2; Eds. Roger Ariew and Eric Watkins; Hackett, 2000; ISBN: 9780872205345 (v1), 9780872205321 (v2).

Required readings not found in the textbooks will be posted under "Assigned Readings" as .pdf files (pdf) on the course website, here:

<https://webfiles.colorado.edu/vancecd/phil1020.html>

Course Requirements

1. *Exams (50%)*. For units 1 and 3, you will take an exam (25% each).
2. *Papers (30%)*. For unit 2, you will write two papers. The first (10%) will be a short diagnostic paper, 450-600 words (i.e., 1.5 - 2 pages), and the second (20%) will be a longer paper, 900-1500 words in length (i.e., 3 - 5 pages). *Topics and more info: TBA.*
3. *Quizzes (10%)*. You will take a total of 11 short reading quizzes. Your lowest quiz score will be dropped; i.e., your 10 best scores will constitute your quiz grade (1% each).
4. *Participation (10%)*. A portion of your grade will depend on your ability to come to class (on time and prepared), participate in class discussion, and refrain from being disruptive, falling asleep, sending text messages, or surfing the internet.

Course Policies

Academic Integrity

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at colorado.edu/honorcode/studentinfo/violation.htm

Anyone caught violating the academic integrity policy (in any way) will automatically receive an F for this course, and may be subject to expulsion from the university.

Disability Services

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and colorado.edu/disabilityservices.

Religious Observances

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments, or required attendance. Please let me know well in advance about any such conflicts, so we can resolve them. For more information, see colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html.

Classroom Behavior

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. See policies at colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html.

Discrimination and Harassment

The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff, and faculty. Any student, staff, or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at colorado.edu/odh.

Below is a schedule of what topics we will cover, and what reading(s) you should complete for each class meeting. Page numbers for volume 1 (v1) and volume 2 (v2) of the texts are in parenthesis. Readings not found in the texts are marked: (pdf). Please note the **due dates** for the papers, and the **exam dates**.

Unit One	Skepticism	
Week 1	Francis Bacon (1620) and Galileo Galilei (1623)	
Mon 1/10	Syllabus/Intro	No Readings
Wed 1/12	Introduction to Skepticism	• "Introduction to Skepticism" (pdf)
Fri 1/14	The New Science and Corpuscularianism	• Bacon, "New Organon" 18, 31-46 (v1: 5-7) • Galileo, "Corpuscularianism" (v1: 8-11)
Week 2	Rene Descartes (1641)	
Wed 1/19	Descartes – Doubt	• Descartes, "Meditation One" (v1: 27-30)
Fri 1/21	Descartes – "I exist"	• Descartes, "Meditation Two" (v1: 30-34)
Week 3	John Locke (1690)	
Mon 1/24	Locke – Ideas and the Primary-Secondary Quality Distinction	• Locke, "An Essay Concerning Human Understanding" 1.2.1-5 (v2: 13-14); 1.2.17-18 (v2: 16); 2.1.2-5 (v2: 17-18); 2.8.7-17 & 19-21 (v2: 27-29); 2.12.1-2 (v2: 34-35)
Wed 1/26	Locke – Perception and Knowledge	• Locke, "Essay" 2.9.1-3 (v2: 31); 2.9.8 (v2: 32); 4.1.1-3 (v2: 79-80); 4.4.1-8 (v2: 96-98)
Fri 1/28	Locke – Skepticism	• Locke, "Essay" 4.11.1-10 (v2: 104-107)
Week 4	George Berkeley (1710) and David Hume (1748)	
Mon 1/31	Berkeley – Idealism	• Berkeley, "Of The Principles of Human Knowledge" 1.1-9 (v2: 138-140); 1.23 (v2: 143)
Wed 2/2	Berkeley – Idealism	• Berkeley, "Principles" 1.10 (v2: 140-141); 1.14-15 (v2: 141); 1.18-20 (v2:142-143)
Fri 2/4	Hume – Ideas and Impressions	• Hume, "An Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding" section 2 (v2: 333-335)
Week 5	David Hume (1748) and Immanuel Kant (1781)	
Mon 2/7	Hume – Causation and Induction	• Hume, "Inquiry" sections 3-5.1 (v2: 336-346)
Wed 2/9	Hume – Skepticism	• Hume, "Inquiry" section 12.1 (v2: 387-389)
Fri 2/11	Kant – Phenomena	• Kant, "Critique of Pure Reason" excerpts (pdf)
Week 6	Thomas Reid (1764)	
Mon 2/14	Reid – Realism	• Reid, "Inquiry into the Human Mind" numbered sections 1-4 (v2: 437-442); • Reid, "Of the Existence of a Material World" (pdf)
Wed 2/16	Review: Unit One Exam	No new readings
Fri 2/18	UNIT ONE EXAM	No new readings

Unit Two	Metaphysics	
Week 7		
Mon 2/21	Personal Identity	• Hobbes, "On Sameness of Identity" (pdf)
Wed 2/23	Personal Identity	• Locke, "Essay" 2.27.1 & 2.27.3-26 (v2: 61-69)
Fri 2/25	Personal Identity	• Reid, "Of Mr. Locke's Account of Personal Identity" (pdf)
Week 8		
Mon 2/28	Personal Identity	• Hume, "Treatise on Human Nature" 1.4.6 (v2: 320-327)
Wed 3/2	Mind-Body Problem – Cartesian Dualism	• "Introduction to the Mind-Body Problem" (pdf) • Descartes, "Principles of Philosophy" 1.7-8 (v1: 82); 1.51-53 (v1: 90-91) • Descartes, "The Seat of the Soul" (pdf)
Fri 3/4	Mind-Body Problem – Monism (Materialism, Idealism, and Dual-Aspectism)	• Hobbes, "Materialism" (pdf) • Review: Berkeley, "Principles" • Spinoza, "Ethics" Part 1: propositions 1-10 (v1: 158-161); propositions 12-14 (v1: 163); Part 2: proposition 7 scholium (v1: 180)
Week 9		
Mon 3/7	Mind-Body Problem – Non-Interactionism (Occasionalism and Parallelism)	• Malbranche, "Search After Truth" 6.2.3 excerpt (v1: 225-226); 3.2.3 (v1: 216-219) • Leibniz, "Primary Truths" excerpt (v1: 277) • Leibniz, "New System of Nature" excerpt (v1: 282-283); • Leibniz, "Monadology" sections 78-81 (v1: 292)
Wed 3/9	Mind-Body Problem	No new readings
Fri 3/11	Free Will – Determinism	• d'Holbach, "The Illusion of Free Will" (pdf)
Week 10		
Mon 3/14	Free Will – Libertarianism	• Descartes, "Principles" 1.39 (v1: 88); "The Passions of the Soul" 1.41,43,45-50 (pdf) • Kant, "The Freedom of the Will" (pdf)
Wed 3/16	Free Will – Compatibilism	• Hobbes, "On Compatibilism" (pdf) • Hume, "Inquiry" section 8, excerpts (v2: 359-367)
Fri 3/18	Free Will DUE: PAPER #1	No new readings
Spring Break		
3/21-3/25	Spring Break	No new readings

Unit Three		God
Week 11		
Mon 3/28	Ontological Argument	• Descartes, "Meditation Five" (v1: 45-48)
Wed 3/30	Ontological Argument	• Kant, "Of The Impossibility of an Ontological Proof For The Existence of God" (pdf)
Fri 4/1	Ontological Argument	No new readings
Week 12		
Mon 4/4	Cosmological Argument	• Clarke, "The Cosmological Argument" (pdf)
Wed 4/6	Cosmological Argument	• Hume, "Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion" part 9 (v2: 414-416)
Fri 4/8	Cosmological Argument DUE: PAPER #2	No new readings
Week 13		
Mon 4/11	Teleological Argument	• Paley, "The Argument From Design" (pdf)
Wed 4/13	Teleological Argument	• Hume, "Dialogues" part 2 (v2: 402-406)
Fri 4/15	Teleological Argument	No new readings
Week 14		
Mon 4/18	God and Evil	• Hume, "Dialogues" part 11 (v2: 421-426)
Wed 4/20	God and Evil	• Leibniz, "The Best of All Possible Worlds" (pdf)
Fri 4/22	God and Evil	No new readings
Week 15		
Mon 4/25	Miracles	• Hume, "Inquiry" section 10.1 (v2: 371-374)
Wed 4/27	Pascal's Wager	• Pascal, "The Wager" (v1: 123-125)
Fri 4/29	Review: Unit Three Exam	No new readings
Sat 4/30	UNIT THREE EXAM	Section 001 (1pm class): 1:30-4pm Section 002 (10am class): 7:30-10pm